

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 16, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--In another aspect, the invention relates to the gene determinant responsible for conferring phage resistance. This determinant corresponds to the ORF of pCRB96 plasmid, encoding the above mentioned "s" subunit, whose sequence is reported in ~~SEQ. ID N. 1~~ SEQ ID NO. 1. Such a protein, in the type I restriction and modification systems, confers specificity to the restriction enzyme and methylase. The subunit alone is not able to confer phage resistance; actually transferring it to a heterologous host does not automatically determine phenotype change, the presence of gene encoding the two involved enzymes being necessary. The introduction in a host containing a complete type I R/M of a heterologous s subunit, may result in an enhanced phage resistance, comparable to a complete R/M system. In fact, the s subunit alone can change the system specificity, without inhibiting the pre-existing one. Resistance results from the sum of the effects of the two subunits.--